

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed December 14, 2006, the Examiner objected to the drawings for failing to show a reference number; objected to the specification for lacking antecedent basis; rejected claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; rejected claims 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as non-statutory; rejected claims 1-4, 6, 7, 11-14, 17-19, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,046,248 to Perttunen; rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Perttunen in view of Chester et al., Mastering Excel 97, pp. 54-57 and 376-377 (Chester); rejected claims 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Perttunen in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,404,444 to Johnston et al. (Johnston) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,043,702 to Chi et al. (Chi); and rejected claims 15, 16, 20, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Perttunen in view of Johnston.

Applicants amend claims 1, 5, 11, 17, and 22 to more clearly define the features of those claims.

Claims 1-22 are currently pending.

Regarding the drawings, Applicants submit that the user-selectable link is labeled since the graphical object 222 is what provides the user-selectable link to data objects. As a result, the objections to the drawings should be withdrawn.

Regarding the objection to the specification as lacking antecedent basis for claim 5, Applicants disagree with the Examiner since the specification (e.g., paragraph 0024) provides such support. Applicants submit, however, that the amendments to claim 5 obviate the basis of the Examiner's objection. The objection should thus be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Applicants submit that the amendments to claim 9 obviate the basis for that rejection, and the rejection of claim 9 and claim 10, at least by reason of its dependency from

independent claim 9, under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, should thus be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101, Applicants submit that the amendments to claim 11 obviate the basis for the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 of claim 11 and claims 12-16, at least by reason of their dependency from claim 11, should be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6, 7, 11-14, 17-19, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Perttunen. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a combination of features including, among other things, “combining the first and second graphical structures in the GUI defining a plurality of user-selectable graphical objects each providing access to one or more data objects associated with a corresponding portion of the combined first and second arrangements, the combined first and second graphical structures including at least one overlapping region defining one of the user-selectable objects providing access to the first and second arrangements of data objects and one or more of the first and second set of documents.”

In contrast to claim 1, Perttunen discloses a way of presenting financial information. In particular, Perttunen discloses separate regions each of which corresponds to a separate stock, but none of Perttunen's regions overlap. Moreover, Perttunen is absolutely silent with respect to combining graphical structures to be able to visualize overlaps suggesting relationships between data objects. Accordingly, Perttunen fails to disclose at least the following feature of claim 1: “combining the first and second graphical structures in the GUI defining a plurality of user-selectable graphical objects each providing access to one or more data objects associated with a

corresponding portion of the combined first and second arrangements, the combined first and second graphical structures including at least one overlapping region defining one of the user-selectable objects providing access to the first and second arrangements of data objects and one or more of the first and second set of documents."

To support the section 102(e) rejection, the Examiner appears to rely on Perttunen FIG. 11, but neither FIG. 11 nor the corresponding description at col. 19, line 65 - col. 20, line 2 cure the noted deficiencies of Perttunen. Indeed, the description of FIG. 11 suggests separate regions for each stock, without any mention of overlapping regions. Specifically, Perttunen describes FIG. 11 as follows:

FIG. 11 is a first example of regions to represent the fourteen stocks A N and the base stock S related by the tree in FIG. 10. In this example, the regions all have approximately the same area. The regions provide a 360-degree view of the stocks A N and S.

Perttunen, col. 19, line 65 - col. 20, line 2. Moreover, when Perttunen describes a similar figure, FIG. 12, he states:

FIG. 12 is a second example of regions to represent the fourteen stocks A N and the base stock S related by the tree in FIG. 10. In this example, each region has an area based on a similarity value between its corresponding stock and the base stock. Thus, if a first stock (e.g. stock A) is more similar to the base stock S than a second stock (e.g. stock B) is to the base stock S, the region representing stock A has a greater area than the region representing stock B. The regions provide a 360-degree view of the stocks A N and S.

Perttunen, col. 20, lines 3- 11. The excerpts above from Perttunen show that each stock has an individual region, without any overlap. Moreover, the graphic of Perttunen is created from a single data arrangement, as depicted in the single tree of FIG. 10. As a consequence, Perttunen single data tree arrangement cannot possibly constitute

"combining the first and second graphical structures," as recited in claim 1.

The Examiner also appears to allege that col. 2, lines 60-65 discloses the "combining" feature recited in claim 1. However, Applicants do not see how Perttunen col. 2, lines 60-65 is relevant in view of the "combining" feature recited in claim 1 since that passage merely states:

The regions may be visibly displayed to provide a visible representation of the financial information, and/or used to provide an input interface to allow a user-initiated selection of a portion of the financial information. Optionally, the regions may be printed to produce a hard copy representation of the financial information.

Perttunen col. 2, lines 60-65.

For the above noted reasons, Perttunen fails to disclose at least the following feature of claim 1: "combining the first and second graphical structures in the GUI defining a plurality of user-selectable graphical objects each providing access to one or more data objects associated with a corresponding portion of the combined first and second arrangements, the combined first and second graphical structures including at least one overlapping region defining one of the user-selectable objects providing access to the first and second arrangements of data objects and one or more of the first and second set of documents." Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Perttunen, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of claim 1 as well as claims 2-4, 6, and 7, at least by reason of their dependency from independent claim 1, should be withdrawn.

Claims 11, 17, and 22, although of different scope, includes features that are similar to those noted above for claim 1. Claims 12-14 depend from independent claim 11; claims 18 and 19 depend from claim 17. For at least the reasons noted above for claim 1, claims 11-14, 17-19, and 22 are not anticipated by Perttunen, and the rejection of those claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection of Claim 5

The Examiner rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Perttunen in view of Chester. Applicants traverse this rejection.

Claim 5 depends from claim 1 and includes all the features therein including, among other things, "combining the first and second graphical structures in the GUI defining a plurality of user-selectable graphical objects each providing access to one or more data objects associated with a corresponding portion of the combined first and second arrangements, the combined first and second graphical structures including at least one overlapping region defining one of the user-selectable objects providing access to the first and second arrangements of data objects and one or more of the first and second set of documents." As discussed above, Perttunen fails to disclose the noted feature of claim 5. Although Chester Excel 97 describes worksheets, Chester fails to cure the noted deficiencies of Perttunen. Accordingly, claim 5 is patentable over Perttunen and Chester, whether taken alone or in combination, and thus the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection of Claims 8-10

The Examiner rejected claims 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Perttunen in view of Johnston and Chi. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 8-10 depends from claim 1 and each includes all the features therein including, among other things, "combining the first and second graphical structures in the GUI defining a plurality of user-selectable graphical objects each providing access to one or more data objects associated with a corresponding portion of the combined first and second arrangements, the combined first and second graphical structures

including at least one overlapping region defining one of the user-selectable objects providing access to the first and second arrangements of data objects and one or more of the first and second set of documents.” As discussed above, Perttunen fails to disclose the noted feature found in each of claims 8-10. Although Johnston discloses displaying resource allocation information in cylinders (Abstract) and Chi discloses visualizing usage patterns (Abstract), neither Johnston nor Chi cures the noted deficiencies of Perttunen. Accordingly, claims 8-10 are patentable over Perttunen, Johnston, and Chi, whether taken alone or in combination, and thus the rejection of those claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection of Claims 15, 16, 20, and 21

The Examiner rejected claims 15, 16, 20, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Perttunen in view of Johnston. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 15 and 16 depend from claim 11. Claims 20 and 21 depend from claim 17. As noted above, although these claims are of different scope, they include features similar to those noted above with respect to claim 1. For at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 1, claims 15, 16, 20, and 21 are patentable over Perttunen and Johnston, and the rejection of those claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

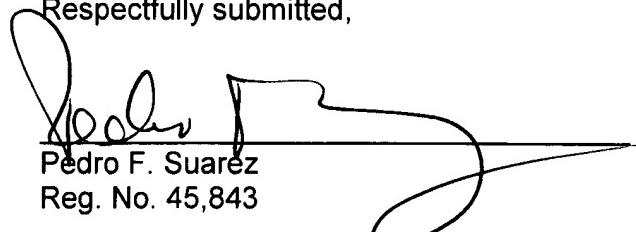
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

If there are any questions regarding these amendments and remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. No fee is believed to be due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 34874-080-UTIL / 2003P00304US.

Respectfully submitted,

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